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URBAN/MUNICIPAL

Report to the Legislation Committee.

Annual Meeting of the
Bureau of Municipal Research.

**REPORT
TO THE
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**OF THE
CITY OF HAMILTON**

BY

**ALDERMAN BRIAN HINKLEY
ALDERMAN MIKE DAVISON
ALDERMAN BRUCE CHARLTON
ALDERMAN TOM MURRAY**

ON THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

HELD ON

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WESTIN HOTEL

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PREFACE

THE BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH IS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY AND IS SUPPORTED BY A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL FIRMS, ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENTS AND INDIVIDUALS.

FOUNDED IN 1914 AS A NON-PROFIT RESEARCH AGENCY, THE BUREAU UNDERTAKES A WIDE RANGE OF STUDIES INTO PROBLEMS FACING MUNICIPALITIES IN ONTARIO. AS AN ADVOCATE OF RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, THE BUREAU HAS GAINED WIDE RECOGNITION FOR THE HIGH CALIBRE OF ITS PUBLICATIONS "CIVIC AFFAIRS" AND "B.M.R. COMMENT/TOPIC" WHICH FEATURES PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON MUNICIPAL ISSUES.

THE BUREAU'S ANNUAL MEETING THIS YEAR WAS HELD IN THE WESTIN HOTEL IN TORONTO AND FEATURED AS THE GUEST SPEAKER MR. BOB RAE, M.P.P. AND LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ONTARIO. MR. RAE SPOKE TO THE DELEGATES ON THE SUBJECT "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE CHALLENGE TO ONTARIO'S MUNICIPALITIES". IT IS TO THIS SUBJECT THAT THIS REPORT ADDRESSES ITSELF.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE B.M.R. IS MR. DAVID FREEMAN WHO OF COURSE IS THE CITY'S ARCHITECT.

ADDRESS BY MR. BOB RAE, M.P.P. -

LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

MR. RAE COMMENCED HIS ADDRESS BY INDICATING THE TRADITIONAL NOTION OF THE

ROLE AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS MUNICIPALITIES BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. THAT IS TO SAY THAT MUNICIPALITIES ARE "CREATURES OF THE PROVINCE" AND THEREFORE ARE TREATED AS SECOND COUSINS AND NOT REALLY TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY.

HE TALKED ABOUT A RECENT VISIT HE HAD OCCASION TO MAKE TO KENORA AND HOW THE MAYOR AND OTHER COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE THE STRONG DESIRE TO DEVERSIFY THEIR LOCAL ECONOMY. HE INDICATED THE BUILT-UP FRUSTRATION THAT EXISTED BY THAT COMMUNITY WHO HAVE THE WILL AND ENERGY TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY WORK, BUT NOT THE MEANS.

MR. RAE INDICATED THAT THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OFTEN DO MORE TO FRUSTRATE AND DAMPEN LOCAL ENTHUSIASM THAN ENCOURAGE IT.

HE HAD A DISCOURAGING TONE IN HIS VOICE WHEN HE OUTLINED WITH SOME SADNESS HOW LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE ARE COMPETING AMONG THEMSELVES FOR INDUSTRIES TO LOCATE IN THEIR COMMUNITY. THIS PRACTICE OF SIMPLY MOVING JOBS FROM ONE COMMUNITY TO ANOTHER IS NOT GOOD FOR THE PROVINCE AND IN THE LONG RUN WILL HURT SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES.

HE TALKED ABOUT THE FRUSTRATION CAUSED BY THE CO-ED PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT THE IMAGINATION, TALENT AND IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR JOB CREATION WORKS COME FROM THE MUNICIPALITIES AND YET THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE IDEAS HAVE TAKEN SO LONG TO IMPLEMENT BECAUSE OF THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL BUREAUCRACY.

MR. RAE THEN OFFERED SOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE BY AND FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN ORDER TO ASSIST IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FOR

EASE OF PRESENTATION WE HAVE LISTED THE SUGGESTIONS IN POINT FORM.

1. THE PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM MUST BE REVISED SO THAT MUNICIPAL RESOURCES ARE NOT SO HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON THE PROPERTY TAX BASE.
2. PROVINCIAL GRANTS MUST BECOME MORE STABLE TO ALLOW LONG TERM MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES AND NOT RELY ON THE WHIM OF A CABINET MINISTER FROM YEAR TO YEAR.
3. MUNICIPALITIES CAN DO MORE TO CREATE JOBS NOW IN THE AREA OF MUNICIPAL NON-PROFIT HOUSING AND ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.
4. NEW FORMS OF CO-ORDINATION AND PLANNING BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PROVINCE REGARDING MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS.
5. A CLOSER EXAMINATION ON HOW THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO LOCATE OR ENCOURAGE THE LOCATION OF INDUSTRIES.
6. THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PROVINCE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH NEW INSTITUTIONS FOR PLANNING.

7. WE MUST GET AWAY FROM THE NOTION THAT THE LARGE
MEGA-PROJECTS WILL SOLVE OUR EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS
AS THE COSTS OF THESE PROJECTS ARE TOO EXHORBITANT
FOR THE RETURN WE GET ON INVESTMENT.
8. MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD STICK TO WHAT THEY ARE DOING
WELL NOW, AND BUILD UPON THAT BASE TO DIVERSIFY, BUT NOT
ABANDON THEIR BASE.
9. MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD GET MORE INVOLVED IN MUNICIPAL
ECONOMIC PLANNING MUCH THE SAME WAY AS THEY ARE INTO
PHYSICAL PLANNING.

AT THE COMPLETION OF HIS PRESENTATION MR. RAE REMAINED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
FROM THE DELEGATES.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH WE WISH
EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE FOR RECOMMENDING OUR
ATTENDANCE AND TO THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE'S
RECOMMENDATIONS. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MANY SUBSTANTIAL AND POSITIVE
SUGGESTIONS PUT FORTH BY MR. BOB RAE, LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
ONTARIO WE OFFER FOR THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION AND ACTION THE FOLLOWING

RECOMMENDATIONS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. "WHEREAS MANY MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO HAVE DEVELOPED VARIOUS STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO THEIR COMMUNITY;

AND WHEREAS THESE STRATEGIES MAY INADVERTENTLY DEVELOP INTO A COMPETITION AMONG SISTER MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO;

AND WHEREAS IN THE LONG-TERM SUCH COMPETITION COULD RESULT IN DESTRUCTIVE AND ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, WHICH WOULD ONLY SERVE TO WEAKEN MUNICIPALITIES RATHER THAN STRENGTHEN;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF HAMILTON ACCEPT AS POLICY TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS TO END THE PRACTICE OF MUNICIPALITIES COMPETING IN GIVE-AWAYS TO ATTRACT NEW DEVELOPMENT;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO BE REQUESTED TO EXAMINE AND RESEARCH THIS ISSUE WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING MEASURES THAT WOULD AVOID THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS THAT SOME MUNICIPALITIES MAY EXPERIENCE;

AND FURTHER THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE CIRCULATED TO THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM G. DAVIS; MR. DAVID PETERSON, M.L.A.; MR. BOB RAE, M.L.A.; OUR AREA MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY; AND TO ALL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES WITH POPULATION IN EXCESS OF 50,000 REQUESTING THEIR ENDORSATION."

2. IN VIEW OF THE OBVIOUS JOB CREATION THAT MUNICIPAL NON-PROFIT HOUSING PROVIDES; AND IN VIEW OF THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND FAVOURABLE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS; IT IS THE OPINION OF THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE THAT THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BE REQUESTED TO GIVE ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF LOW INCOME HOUSING UNITS BY USING THE MECHANISM OF MUNICIPAL NON-PROFIT HOUSING THAT INCORPORATES ENERGY-EFFICIENT METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION.
3. THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE BE REQUESTED TO EXAMINE THE PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM AS IT APPLIES TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON AND PREPARE A REPORT ON MEASURES THAT MAY BE TAKEN TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF MUNICIPAL REVENUES SO AS TO LESSEN THE BURDEN OF PROPERTY TAXATION ON LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME EARNERS AND TO REDUCE THE DEPENDENCY OF RAISING REVENUES FROM THE PROPERTY TAX BASE.
4. THAT THE CITY'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, THE REGION'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE REGION'S ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BE REQUESTED TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC FACTORS AS IT RELATES TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS. THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED COMMITTEES CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FORMS OF CRITERIA WHEN EVALUATING AND ASSESSING PROPOSALS. SUCH ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS FOR CONSIDERATION MAY INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- LONG AND SHORT TERM EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
- IN SUCH AREAS AS
AS NUMBER, AND TYPES OF JOBS CREATED.
- POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON ESTABLISHED BUSINESS OPERATIONS
- WORKER DISPLACEMENTS
- USE OF LOCAL MANPOWER, PRODUCTS AND COMPONENTS ETC. IN THE
PLANNING AND BUILDING OF THE PROJECT
- COMPATIBILITY WITH THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC STABILITY OF THE REGION

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